



John Elias Baldacci
Governor, State of Maine

Paul K. Vestal, Chair
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES
February 25, 2009

The JJAG held the February meeting on February 25, 2009 at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro, Maine.

I. Roll Call:

Present: Mark Boger, Richard Brown, Ned Chester, Shelley Reed, Jim Foss, Hannah Kiernan, Charles LaVerdiere, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, Patrick Walsh, Adam Royer, Margaret Longworth, Patrick Walsh, Dalene Dutton, Denise Giles, Joan McDonald

Absent: Barry Delong, Daniel Despard, Jamie Johnson, Phillipe McLoy, Breanne Petrini, Cathy Ashland, Abby McCourt, Carla Fearon, Nickole Demeritt, Kristen Jiorle, Jim Morse, Dan Nichols

Staff: Tim Piekart, Kathryn McGloin

II. Minutes:

Motion: To approve January meeting minutes

Moved: Jim Foss/Richard Brown 2nd

Action: Approved

III Chair Report:

Paul Vestal reported that our own Dr. James Morse will be the new superintendent of Portland schools.

Tim Piekart is our new Compliance Monitor. Tim has worked in corrections for 16 years and looks forward to working now in juvenile services.

Systems Improvement Allocation

We have two opportunities in which to engage:

Chief Justice Saufley's collaborative which includes the three branches of government working to divert children from the system and training those who work with these children on best practices. Her plan is to produce a summit Paul believes is quite similar to one the JJAG hosted about six years ago. Chief Justice Saufley is looking for better dispensation alternatives, restorative justice, peer to peer adjudication and to build on Jurisdictional Team Planning findings to name but a few ideas. She is hoping this summit will take place just after Thanksgiving of this year. Barry Stoodley indicated that the Chief has been to talk with the Governor's Children's Cabinet. He also said Chief Justice Saufley is interested in what is happening at the front end of the

juvenile justice system and the research around deviant contagion.

Denise Giles informed the Group that Marilyn Debonnet-Venura, Victim Advocate for the U.S. Attorney's Office called her to say her boss asked her to look into a training for folks around adolescent brain development and juvenile issues.

The JJAG will keep an eye on this in hopes of connecting the two.

Collaborative Problem Solving

The JJAG considered earlier using this funding line to support expansion of CPS. In a meeting with Kathryn Dr. Green outlined a plan to train folks and then support them with virtual supervision. He is thinking a web-based type of supervision where folks have the opportunity to interact with him and his staff as well as others. We should include parents and group homes. Youth leaving our Centers often go to group homes.

This is a good time to be talking about CPS as it has good outcomes from workers without credentials. That is, one does not need a license to use Collaborative Problem Solving and still get good outcomes.

Barry Stoodley noted that New Hampshire sent three people to review Performance-based Standards at our juvenile facilities and came away very impressed with the delivery of CPS. There are folks at both facilities who could attend a JJAG meeting to report on CPS.

There was discussion on training in particular. Training budgets are the first to be cut so that may be an issue. Sue Righthand's model of clinical consultation may work for us; that is monthly, rotating around the state and using ITV.

Title V funding has supported the Sanford project and though the JJAG voted to support it for another year. Dr. Green does not believe a third year of funding is necessary. He believes Sanford will need but one day a week. We will need to reassess and perhaps plan for a release of an RFP for another community. Dr. Green indicated that Kittery, Portland and South Portland are interested in a project similar to Sanford's.

Kathryn will ask Dr. Green to attend the March meeting.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Programmatic Change Request

The Division of Juvenile Services provided a report on JABG funded programs and requested to use leftover funds to provide short-term pre-trial detention alternative services at Reardon's Place and Girls Transitional Program at a cost not to exceed \$80,000. DJS reports that this will serve to fill a gap related to the new ITRT process. Children who don't have a diagnosis and need immediate short term care are falling through the cracks. DJS believes that this is a short term solution. They have recently issued a Request for Proposals to implement best practices in detention alternatives which will cover the problem.

Motion: To allow the use of leftover JABG funds to provide short-term pre-trial detention alternative services at Reardon's Place and Girls Transitional Program at a cost not to exceed \$80,000.

Moved: Ned Chester/Christine Thibeault 2nd

Discussion:

a) Reardon's Place and Girls Transitional Program were selected because DJS has a current contract with them and they are in Cumberland County where the need is.

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- b) The DHHS company line is nowhere near the reality for these children and families.
- c) We need to spend funds on parents. Otherwise we are just spinning our wheels.

Action: Motion Approved
Abstentions: 4 Abstentions

IV. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report

Kathryn reported that the MAYSI Program laptops and printers have gone to Bucksport Recreation Department, Lisbon Falls Police Department, DJS Region III and the Sexual Behavior Treatment Programs at Mountain View and Long Creek Youth Development Centers.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice annual conference is May 2 to 5 in Arlington, VA. This is an important conference with the new administration and economic times. Kathryn and others urge JJAG members to attend. Kathryn reminded folks of the need to request travel and the length of time needed. She provided forms.

The November grant award appeal hearing took place and Kathryn will do everything in her power to prevent it from happening again. She will send the appeal hearing finding letter to the JJAG. The judges found that 1) scores were inconsistent with notes, 2) the same reviewers review all proposals, and 3) the RFP is unclear as to when an MOU is needed.

Kathryn met with Betty Lamoreau of the Division of Purchases for guidance and has made corrections on all written documents. The new RFP package has been sent to Purchases for their approval.

Betty Lamoreau will attend the JJAG meeting in March to provide guidance to reviewers of the re-release of the RFPs.

Kathryn suggests that this release be for a grant of one year rather than two. She cites that the funds are leftover funds and the JJAG would need to dip into regular program area funding to cover the second year. She asked the JJAG to vote:

Motion: To award subgrantees of March RFP for one year.

Moved: Christine Thibeault/Margaret Longworth 2nd

Action: Approved

Abstentions: 1 Abstention

V. Compliance Monitor Report

Tim Piekart is on board.

VI. Committee Reports

Joan McDonald, chair of the Grants Committee discussed the Portland West appeal hearing. She also brought forth a funding request from Mainely Girls for a book program and asked for a vote.

Motion: To award Mainely Girls the sum of \$5000.

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Moved: Denise Giles / Christine Thibeault 2nd

Action: Denied

The JJAG questioned the status of the Adam Walsh Act in Maine and nationally. Kathryn will contact the Coalition for Juvenile Justice for information and send it out.

VII. Presentation:

Patrick Walsh directed us in sculpting the new Comprehensive Three Year Plan for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The needs and problems statement which will guide the plan were discussed.

JJAG – Three Year Plan Handout

Discussion of Priority Juvenile Justice Needs and Problems – February 18, 2009

1. Maine Supreme Court Chief Justice Leigh Saufley has proposed a summit on Juvenile Justice to be held during the week of November 30 to December 4th. This summit would convene members of the judiciary and include educational programs on a variety of topics. Included in the topics could be:

- Best evidence practices to assist first time/low risk offenders
- Positive Youth Development strategies
- Recidivism
- Comprehensive systems

The summit would be planned to identify specific outcomes and develop action planning. There is the potential for this to be a multi-year activity to include the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government as well as others.

JJAG may be able to provide support through the use of System Improvement funds

2. There is need to continue to focus on mental health services for juveniles. This may include preservation and expansion of community level services. This calls for strong working relationships between schools, community agencies and Courts. We need to continue to support integration of services. We must identify barriers to long-term and short-term residential treatment.

3. We need to continue to solicit applications from those able to provide Alternatives to Detention programs. These solicitations should be more specific about what is needed. Grants should be made to programs using evidence based practice models. Fidelity to program model should be required in contract and identified in Outcome Measure reporting. We should continue to provide support to effective programs and help to educate the community about the enhanced value of effective programs.

4. Hire a consultant/contractor to work to collect data and develop a comprehensive strategy for effective prevention and intervention that could attract support from a Foundation funder.

5. We have gathered data on Disproportionate Minority Contact and need to continue to do so. We also need to gather data from “stakeholder” groups. We must move toward action with some targeted strategies.

6. The issue of effective assistance of counsel continues to be important. In an ideal world fewer kids would be entering the system. Training for lawyers, both defense and prosecution should continue to be supported. Other important sectors of the child’s life might also be included in training. We will explore

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opportunities for web-based training. However we cannot replace the valuable experience of shared learning in a face-to-face/classroom environment.

The defense of juveniles requires special information. There may need to be a consultation number to call for lawyers to check in with someone more experienced.

7. The JJAG remains committed to the decision that we will advocate for the rights of juveniles and that they are excepted (I think he means exempted) from a requirement to be added to a database of Sex Offenders after certain convictions as per the Adam Walsh Act. We believe that juveniles who sexually offend should not be treated in the same fashion as adult who have committed sexual offenses.

8. We need to continue to examine the issues of girls/females in the system. The number of girls detained and confined is increasing. Some girls are being detained who are at a lower level of risk of continued criminality than boys who are not being detained.

There need to be more structured alternatives to detention specifically for girls. We will commit to exploring programs and strategies. Attention needs to be paid to the Trauma Informed System of Care.

9. We need to strengthen the diversion network

10. We need to identify strategies to connect with parents of children in the system and possibly facilitate support/advocacy for parents by using existing parent support networks or by creating a “pilot” program to test the benefit of connecting parents who are new to the system with parents who have had positive experience. We should consider the concept that there is “No Wrong Door” for a parent/family to enter for information and support.

11. We need to continue to discuss the competency standard for juveniles and what happens when a court finds that a juvenile is incompetent.

Some of our work on the Plan needs to be done electronically as the application due date is but a few days after our March meeting. Christine suggests that each member take time to review the needs and problem statements and the last Plan to see where they might be able to help.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy on March 25, 2009.